



CATAWBA COUNTY

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**Department of Social
Services**

PRESS RELEASE/PSA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN APRIL FOR PERSONS WHO DON'T TYPICALLY FILE INCOME TAXES, BUT MAY QUALIFY FOR ECONOMIC STIMULUS REBATE

Starting this week, the IRS will begin mailing out information to millions of people who receive benefits from Social Security or Veterans Affairs. This information will assist the recipient in filing for the 2008 economic stimulus payment. This information package is designed for persons who do not typically need to file a tax form—but may be qualified for this special stimulus payment.

Most recipients should be able to complete the simplified tax form easily. However, for those who need help, it will be offered by local members of the North Carolina Social Services Association (NCSSA) and employees of Catawba County Social Services.

Retired and disabled persons who need assistance with the special tax forms for the 2008 Stimulus Payment may come to Catawba County Social Services for assistance on April 8, April 10 or April 11 from 9:00 until 3:00. No appointment is needed. The individual would need to bring verification of their identity along with their Social Security Card and the tax package, if available. The individual does not need to bring proof of their Social Security or VA benefit payment. Their statement can be accepted on the amount of their monthly benefits.

Under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, people may be eligible for the minimum payment of \$300 (\$600 for married couples) even if they do not normally file a tax return. There also is an additional payment of \$300 for people with eligible children younger than 17. However, eligible persons must file an income tax return in order to receive the payment.

To qualify for the minimum economic stimulus payment, retirees or disabled persons must have at least \$3,000 in any combination of qualifying income from retirement, disability or survivors' benefits

from the Social Security Administration; or disability compensation, disability pension or survivors' benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Retired or disabled persons who receive only SSI (Supplemental Security Income) do not qualify for the 2008 Stimulus Payment.

Currently, there are 106 members of the Catawba County Chapter of the North Carolina Social Services Association. NCSSA is the only statewide professional organization which represents the interests and concerns of all social services employees in North Carolina. Over 2600 persons are active NCSSA members statewide.

For more information about NCSSA or this volunteer effort, contact Brenda Davis at 695-5695.